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Park Lane, Welshpool,

July, 1946.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1945.

To the Sanitary Authority of the Borough of Welshpool.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1945, which is drawn up as directed by the Welsh Board of Health, in Circular 28/46 (Wales).

The mid-year population of the Borough is estimated to be 5,474, being a decrease of 111 on the 1944 population.

BIRTHS.—Live births: Male, 45; Female, 43; total, 88. Illegitimate births numbered 12, included in above totals.

BIRTH RATE for year under review: 16·0 per 1,000 civilian population. Still births: 2. No illegitimate still births.

DEATHS.—Male, 44; Female, 36; total, 80; 1942, 76; 1943, 89; 1944, 84. Death rate 1945: 14.7 per 1,000.

Principal causes of death:—

Cancer, 8.

Cerebral haemorrhage, 15.

Heart diseases, 18.

Pneumonia, nil.

Nephritis, 4.

Diabetes, 1.

Tuberculosis, 4 (lung); other forms, 3; total, 7.

Gastric and Duodenal Ulcer, 2.

Appendicitis, nil.

Road traffic, 1.

Suicide, 1.

Maternal Mortality, nil.

Infantile Diarrhoea, under 2 years of age, nil.

Two deaths of infants under one year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Notifications were received of:—

MEASLES.—38 cases in June, July and August. Mostly of a mild type and all recovered.

SCARLET FEVER.—4 cases. This tends to be of a milder type than formerly. All recovered without complications.

PNEUMONIA.—14 cases, none were fatal.

WHOOPING COUGH.—7 cases.

CHICKEN POX.—17 cases, a mild epidemic in February, March and April.

ERYSIPELAS.—8 cases.

DIPHTHERIA.— 1 case removed to Hospital, had had prophylactic inoculation which considerably modi-

fied the disease, but owing to her environment and positive swabs, removed to the Isolation Hospital, no further case in the Women's Land Army Hostel, where she was living.

Another positive case notified proved to be a carrier and the person was not suffering from Diphtheria.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.—3 cases. Two of these were due to mammary abscesses, the third case was sent to the Salop County Council, Berrington, for investigation. All recovered.

No notifications of TYPHOID or PARATYPHOIDS.

Mortality from all the above was NIL.

Notification by the Medical Practitioners is most satisfactory.

TUBERCULOSIS.—11 cases—6 male and 4 female, of the lung.

1 Meningitis.

In 1945 there were 4 deaths from Tuberculosis of the respiratory system, 2 male and 2 female Also 3 deaths from other forms of Tuberculosis. Total, 7 deaths.

The Clinic at the Victoria Memorial Hospital which is presided over by Dr. Jackson is held fortnightly and I cannot speak too highly of the work done there by the Tuberculosis Physician and his Assistant, Dr. Clark.

VENEREAL DISEASE.— As there is no notification, it is not possible to say whether venereal diseases are more prevalent than formerly, but my impression

is that they are not. Cases when discovered are strongly advised to attend at the V.D. centre in Shrewsbury, for modern treatment.

IMMUNISATION from diphtheria is dealt with most thoroughly by the County Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Ivor Jones.

TOWN WATER.

Rainfall figures for the year were as follows:—

January	2·49in.	July	2.20in.
February	3.06in.	August	3.62in.
March	.81in.	September	2.3 in.
April	2.13in.	October	4.94in.
May	3.04in.	November	.38in.
June	3.48in.	December	4.33in.
		Total	32.78in.

The minimum supply to the reservoirs was recorded on the 27th August when the figure was 79,574 gallons per day.

At the end of the dry period the lower pool was 2ft. 9in. below the top water level—the second and third pools were full.

There was an ample supply during the year.

The minimum waste line registered on night inspection was 1,400 gallons per hour.

The average consumption was 105,000 gallons per day.

Nine samples of the town water were taken and all were satisfactory.

In addition, the following samples were taken:—Brunant, 8; Gelli, 2; Welsh Harp, 7.

During the year 34 samples were submitted to the Medical Research Council's Laboratories for analyses and bacteriological examinations.

During the year the water mains were extended to the Woodside Estate.

GUILSFIELD AND GROES SUPPLY

8 samples of this water were taken and all were satisfactory. Weekly visits were made to re-charge the drip chlorinator. At the end of the dry period the quantity of water in the storage tank was 145,625 gallons. The minimum spring yield into the tank was 1,728 gallons per day. These figures were recorded on the 19th October. No consumption tests were carried out during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year extension of sewers was carried out to the Woodside Estate. The usual cleaning and flushing of sections of the sewers were carried out and there was no flooding of the system in the built-up areas.

INFESTATION ORDER.

Rodent destruction work continues to be carried out under the Ministry of Food and Joint Committee's supervision, with satisfactory results.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action was found necessary.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No change.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

The provisions of the Shops Acts have been complied with. No court proceedings took place.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action.

SWIMMING BATHS

No action.

SCHOOLS.

The Schools in the Borough have been inspected periodically

MILK.

At the end of the year there were 18 retail producers and 75 wholesale producers on the registers kept under the Milk and Dairies Orders.

Five applications were received for registration under this order and 5 producers were registered.

At the end of the year 25 producers in the Borough held accredited licences compared with 24 in the previous year, and there were 16 producers holding T.T. Licences compared with 14 in the previous year.

In all 51 samples were taken for analysis and the results were 49 A's, 1 B and 1 C.

FOOD.

The large increase in the consumption of tinned food continues. During the year, 221 small tins of food were condemned as unfit for human consumption. The wartime arrangements for the meat supply continues to work satisfactorily. During the year 393-lbs. of meat was condemned as unsound.

Other foods condemned were as follows: Fish, 120-lbs.; margarine, 88-lbs.; raisins, 75-lbs,

POST-WAR PREPARATION.

During the year the preparation of the Woodside building site was completed and a contract for the erection of 36 permanent houses on this site had been approved by the Ministry of Health.

At the end of the year work in connection with the preparation of site for 50 pre-fab. Houses was in hand.

In conclusion, Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors, as this is my fortieth and last Annual Report, may I be allowed to thank you all for your kind consideration at all times and to acknowledge the help given to me by your Clerk, Mr. Ben Davies, Capt. W. M. Evans, D.S.O., and the Water Inspector, Mr. B. Davies.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. ARTHUR CRUMP.